



Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Vol. 12, Issues 1 & 2

THE END OF AN ERA

Schuyler Mu

In April of 2016, Beaver County Emergency Services Director Wesley Hill announced his plans to retire as part of the county's early exit incentive package. Director Hill opted to remain in his position through the end of 2016 in order to see through to completion several ongoing projects as well as to assist with the immense transition of staff created by the retirement of nine other Emergency Services employees. The staffing transition is safely underway, and an unprecedented 911 regional phone system conversion was successfully completed in November. Thus, after 31 years of service to Beaver County,



Director Hill turned over his position to newly appointed Emergency Services Director Eric Brewer on January 14, 2017.

Wes began his career with Beaver County Emergency Services in 1981 as a dispatcher under the direction of Russell Chiodo. He moved into the position of SARA/Hazmat Coordinator and Deputy

Director, working alongside Deputy Directors Wayne Harley and later Kevin Joy. In 2004, Wes was appointed to the Director position following Russel Chiodo's retirement.

Wes' career has been one filled with impressive accomplishments, major calls for service, and unforgettable moments. He worked to establish the County's Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 in 1989 and served as its Chief for over 25 years (the original Team 700 is pictured above; Wes is kneeling on the lower right).

Wes also participated in the formation of the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee and served as its Chairperson for a number of years. He was part of the command team and ground response at the US Air Flight 427 crash in Hopewell Township in September of 1994, and he responded to Somerset on September 11, 2001. Following the 9/11 events, Wes was an instrumental player in the formation of the Region 13 Task Force and served as its Chairperson for several years.

In 2010, as Director of Beaver County Emergency Services, he led the planning and creation of the new and state-of-the-art Emergency Services Center in Ambridge Borough (above right, Wes is pictured at the groundbreaking second from the left).

In addition to these milestones and accomplished positions, Director Hill was also a leader and participant in all of the day to day calls for service and more mundane, but no less important, tasks that fill our

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SPRING 2017

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DIRECTOR HILL'S RETIREMENT, *CONT*

hours here at Emergency Services. Just to name a few: local transportation fuel spills, chemical releases, utility outages, snow & flooding events, missing person search & rescue operations, grant application completion, coordination of 911 services with response agencies including police, fire & EMS, exercise planning, training & execution, not to mention all of the budget, payroll and human resource functions that keep the operation running, as well as the conferences and trainings required of County Emergency Coordinators that keep them up to date and informed in an ever changing field. Whew, that was a run on, but it gives you an idea of the myriad duties and responsibilities that Director Hill managed during his years of service.

Outside of his county duties (yes, he had time for more!), Wes retired as Chief of the 171st CES/CEF Crash Rescue Squadron stationed at the Pittsburgh International Airport with 27 years of service. During his service, Wes supported operations Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle. He also served a term as president of the Keystone Emergency Management Association, and was President and later Treasurer of the Beaver County Firefighters Association. He is a longtime member of the Beaver County Chiefs of Police Association and an Instructor Emeritus with the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. He has also served as East Rochester Fire Chief, was a Rochester Borough Council member, has been Rochester Borough's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for many years, and is an active member of Post 128, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Rochester. Finally, and perhaps most importantly in his life, Wes is a devoted father of two children and the doting grandfather of six.

In Wes' tenure at Emergency Services, he worked for and with several different Board of Commissioners and county elected officials and saw a regular turnover of appointed staff at the state level as well. It can be said that he worked well with all of them for the good of the county and that the consistency and continuity of management staff at Emergency Services for the last 30+ years has been key to the success of the operation and a benefit to public safety in Beaver County as a whole. As one era ends with the retirement of Director Hill, we trust that continuity will be maintained and that the new management team will lead us into the next generation of 9-1-1, using the best practices of the past to build an even brighter professional future.

All who know Wes can attest to the fact that when help is needed, he is there. His dedication will be missed. Thank you, Wes, for your service to your country and your community, for your true commitment to public safety, and for the lessons you have taught us, for which we are grateful.

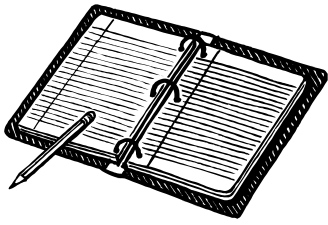


Top photos from left to right: Russel Chiodo, Bill Mahan & Wesley Hill, Director Hill on a 2015 response call, former Deputy Director Randy Dawson with Director Hill and Director Brewer, Chief Hill in his Hazmat Response gear



At left: Director Hill with former Deputy Director Kevin Joy outside the old 911 Center in the Beaver Train Station; At right: Wes leading an evaluated exercise in the county's new Emergency Operations Center





THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Eric Brewer, Beaver County
Emergency Services Director

As the new director, I'm very fortunate to be walking into a position surrounded by great people. I'm also honored that the Beaver County Board of Commissioners have trusted and believed in my ability to lead the Department of Emergency Services.

While I believe that we have a good group of employees that truly do care about the safety of the residents, visitors and first responders in Beaver County, I also understand that things cannot be status quo and that change is inevitable. I started working at Beaver County Emergency Services in 1994, just three months before the Flight 427 Disaster. I've worked for two directors, Russel Chiodo and Wesley Hill, so it goes without saying that I will have some big shoes to fill, and I welcome that challenge.

Just to let you know of a few programs and groups that fall under the Department of Emergency Services:

- 9-1-1 Emergency and County Non-Emergency Dispatch
- Hazardous Materials Response Program & Beaver County Hazmat Team 700
- SARA Title III Chemical Reporting and Planning & the County's Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Hazard Mitigation Program
- Radiological Emergency Response Program (REP)
- Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators

The above programs, and several others that are administered by our department, keep us busy.

Following the recent retirements, we have also had the appointment of two new Deputy Directors:



Kevin Whipple will be the Deputy Director of 9-1-1. Kevin has been with the department for twenty years working in 9-1-1 most recently as a 9-1-1 Crew Chief. He also worked closely during the radiological exercise as the Public Information Officer. Kevin is Chippewa Township's EMA Coordinator certified at the advanced level through PEMA and is also in Chippewa's Fire Department.

The second new face to the department is Bill Petures. Bill has served as Monaca's Police Chief since 2006 and was with the Monaca Police Department since 1978. Bill taught criminal justice classes at CCBC and is also a CPR instructor. Bill has served for years as Monaca Borough's Deputy EMC and is certified at the advanced level through PEMA.

In closing, if we don't already know you, please introduce yourself to us over the coming months. Although we are new to the positions, we are not new to Emergency Services.



2016 BVPS EXERCISE A SUCCESS

Douglas Humble

We would like to thank all of those who supported last year's Beaver Valley Power Station Emergency Preparedness Federally Evaluated Exercise on June 14, 2016. Instrumental participants included the county's Emergency Operations Center Staff, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators and their volunteers who staffed the local Emergency Operations Centers, the School Districts located within the Emergency Planning Zone of the power station as well as the supporting fire departments assisting as Emergency Worker Decontamination Stations.

During this exercise, 53 Federal Evaluators evaluated 77 locations across 3 states on 284 criteria. The purpose of the Exercise was to assess the capabilities of the states, counties and local jurisdictions to implement Radiological Emergency Plans and Procedures (RERP) to protect the property and lives of residents and transients in the event of an emergency at BVPS.

The evaluation of this Exercise determined that there were no Level 1 Findings, no Level 2 Findings, and no Plan Issues (PI) in Beaver County. For our purposes, that means that we passed with flying colors. However, for those of us who participated, we know there are always areas where improvements can be made, and we will address those concerns in advance of the next Federally Evaluated Exercise, which is scheduled for 2018. Again, thank you for your efforts, and keep up the good work.

Jeffery McKay

724-385-8232

jmckay@beavercountypa.gov

MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR UPDATES

This is a great time of the year to review and update your Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Functional Checklist and Notification and Resource Manual (NARM). Remember the Basic EOP and Functional Checklist should be reviewed and promulgated every 2 years and the Notification and Resource Manual (NARM) should be done every year. The basic template and functional checklist have numerous lines that need to be filled. The NARM is the list of contacts and partnership you would have in your community to call in an emergency event. Contact your municipal office to find any additional information pertaining to contractors that they may use and that you're not aware of.

Additional annexes, such as the Radiological Emergency Response Annex for the municipalities within the 10 miles of the Beaver Valley Power Station is one that is in place now. Others Annexes to be considered for your municipal plan are an all Hazards Weather Plan, Damage Assessment and Debris Removal Plan, your SARA Title III facility plans and a Continuity of Government operation plan.

You can also go to PEMA's website under the Municipal EOP Planning Templates and download a copy of the templates. It would be a great time to get these plans updated and signed off with your local officials.

At the completion of your plan review, it needs to be promulgated by your elected officials and a copy of the updated plan would need to be sent to Beaver County Emergency Services.

Below is the schedule for 2017 EMC Quarterly trainings. Other trainings may be added as the year progresses. Don't forget about the Municipal Basic, Advanced and Professional level certifications, and, as always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

EMC 2017 Quarterly Trainings

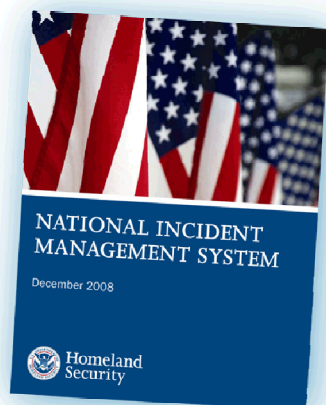
2nd Quarter, April 25th, this will be the Interactive Weather Drill

3rd Quarter, September 12th, at 13:30 and 18:30

4th Quarter, October or November

THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM HAS NOT GONE AWAY

Jeffrey McKay



National Incident Management System (NIMS) hasn't gone away, and as a reminder, we need to continue training new emergency responders as they get involved in emergency services.

NIMS is about unifying how we respond. In time of crisis, our communities depend on us to be able to work together as a team. We all must commit to a common way of doing business.

Elected Officials also have some requirements to train in NIMS. IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, and IS 800 classes can be taken online at the FEMA (IS) Independent Study website. Everyone taking this training must get a FEMA (SID) Student Identification Number prior to taking any tests. Incident Command System (ICS) Classes 300 (24 hours) and 400 (16 Hours) are actual classroom programs. There are additional recommended trainings that are described in the NIMS training matrix.

Each Municipality needs to name a Point of Contact (POC) for NIMS. Each municipal agency (Police, Fire, Public Works, etc.) should also have their own POC who promotes and reports the NIMS compliance information to the Municipal POC. The Municipal NIMS POC needs to complete a NIMS data collection form annually and submit it to the County by September 30th each year. The County POC will then submit that information to PEMA by October 5th. [PA NIMS](#) has more information that can be downloaded.

Remember, the purpose of NIMS, The National Incident Management System, is to establish a comprehensive system that "provides a consistent nationwide approach to enable Federal, State, tribal and local governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. NIMS was developed as a result of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5: Management of Domestic Incidents in February 2003 and is a set of guiding core doctrines, concepts, principles, terminology, and processes that are meant to enable an incident management system that is not only effective, but that allows all entities to work together seamlessly as well. It is not designed to be a response plan, or to be used for large incidents only.

The NIMS has undergone several changes since the initial document was released in 2004. The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 stipulated that there be a National Training Program, of which NIMS is a crucial component.

In September 2008, the Department of Homeland Security updated the core NIMS document to reflect input from stakeholders across the nation, and in September 2011, the NIMS Training Program was released. This updated training program reflects a comprehensive training curriculum along with personnel qualifications and supersedes the February 2008 Five-Year NIMS Training Plan. Additionally, NIMS aligns with Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8: National Preparedness, which was issued in March 2011, and works in conjunction with the National Response Framework (NRF), which was updated in May 2013.

The NRF describes how the Nation will respond to incidents in an all-hazards manner and builds upon NIMS components, all of which support response. When used together, NIMS and the NRF ensure that local jurisdictions retain control and authority over their incident and greatly improve efficiency and response capabilities nationwide. Future federal preparedness funding and assistance is contingent upon working towards achieving full NIMS compliance. In order for Beaver County and its local jurisdictions to secure this funding, the County remains dedicated to working towards implementing the NIMS and completing the compliance activities.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Eric Brewer

We are almost done! Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires state and local governments to develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities. **Hazard Mitigation** is sustained action to reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards.

Over the last year, with the dedication of the Hazard Mitigation team throughout the county, we have been able to update the Beaver County Hazard Mitigation Plan to the federal standard. This plan was adopted by the Beaver County Commissioners in August of 2016 and is now awaiting municipal adoption.

This plan was put into place to assist and enhance the ability for all political subdivisions to recognize any and all hazards that may affect their jurisdictions, along with granting the ability to apply for and obtain federal funding in the attempt to mitigate the hazards. The Beaver County Hazard Mitigation Plan is a working plan. Through the next five years, there may be some hazards that present themselves that may not have been addressed by a particular political subdivision during the review process. The working plan allows us to integrate the hazard and attend to its mitigation needs.

Municipalities should adopt the Beaver County Hazard Mitigation Plan via a resolution, a template of which is also in the plan or can be obtained from our office.

Any questions can be directed to Eric Brewer, ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov

NEWS & NOTES

- **PEMA Certifications Received:** Director Eric Brewer received his Professional Emergency Management Certification. Kelly Staschak, received her Basic Local Certification for Monaca Borough; she is pictured at right with Director Hill.
- **More Staffing Changes at Emergency Services:**
 - Congratulations to our newest full time dispatcher, Brian Speer, and to our new part time dispatchers Rita Bowersock, Kenneth McClain, Jr., Brianna McQueen, Chris Parker, Ryan Pearce, Kayla Troy and Alys Schell.
 - Best wishes also go out to Victor Spinelli who retired from his part time hazmat position in mid-August as well as Supervisory Dispatcher Dom Bedolatti, who officially began his retirement on September 29.
- FirstEnergy's Beaver Valley Power Station conducted a **Contaminated Person Exercise** in conjunction with Heritage Valley Beaver on November 10. Pictured at left, Heritage Valley staff respond to the drill scenario involving a radiologically contaminated patient transported from the BVPS site.
- Beaver County's **VOAD** (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and **LEPC** (Local Emergency Planning Committee) groups have set their **2017 meeting schedule** as follows: February 21, May 16, August 22 and November 14. VOAD meetings begin at 10:30 AM at the Emergency Services Center in Ambridge. The LEPC meets at 1 PM at Emergency Services with the exception of the May meeting, which will be held at BCTA in Center Township.
- **Moving toward a digital future:** Beaver County will not recommend a certain make of radio. However, we will recommend that all new radio purchases be P-25 and digital capable. All major radio companies offer this style of radio. We are looking at upgrading all of our radio bases at our tower sites to be digital compliant as analog radios will eventually be phased out.
- **County ID Badges for public safety personnel** are issued at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center. Appointments are required in advance, and department head authorization is requested for new IDs. Please call 724-775-1700 to ensure availability, to schedule an appointment or for more information.



MARCH 2017

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- **March 1:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **March 9:** BVARA Meeting, 5 PM
- **March 12:** Spring Forward, Daylight Saving Time begins
- **March 13:** Restaurant Health Class, 8:30 AM
- **March 15:** Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- **March 15:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **March 17:** Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- **March 20:** First Day of Spring

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- **April 5:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **April 13:** BVARA Meeting, 5 PM
- **April 14:** Good Friday Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **April 16:** Happy Easter!
- **April 19:** Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- **April 19:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **April 24—28:** PA Severe Weather Preparedness Week
- **April 25:** Severe Weather Exercise

MAY 2017

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- **May 3:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **May 11:** BVARA Meeting, 5 PM
- **May 14:** Mother's Day
- **May 16:** VOAD Meeting, 10:30 AM
- **May 16:** LEPC Meeting, 1 PM, BCTA, Center Township
- **May 17:** Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- **May 17:** Hazmat Team Trng, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **May 29:** Memorial Day Holiday, County Offices Closed

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

For more information on any of the above listed events, or to add your public safety event to future calendars, please email Sky at: smu@beavercountypa.gov

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Sponsored by the Beaver County Firefighters Association & Beaver County Public Safety Commission

Fire Chief (ret.) Richard B. Gasaway presenting:

What is Situational Awareness and why does it matter?

Most first responders know, intuitively, that strong situational awareness is an important aspect of safety. However, many do not understand what situational awareness is, how it is developed and how it can erode while working in high risk, high consequence environments. Yet, situational awareness - and the barriers that flaw awareness - are consistently identified as contributing factors in near-miss and casualty reports.

This program provides you with a working definition for situational awareness and explains how it is developed. Specific examples of barriers that can erode awareness will be discussed, including: Sensory conflict, pre-arrival lens, confirmation bias, tunnel vision, task fixation, mission myopia, multitasking, short-term memory overload, confabulation, time distortion and more.

When: Thursday, March 16, 2017: 6:30pm – 10:00pm

Where: Community College of Beaver County, Bldg. 9, Room 103
1 Campus Drive, Monaca, PA 15061

Host: Beaver County Public Safety Commission

Cost: **FREE**

To Register: Contact Brenda Morris
bmorris@beavercountypa.gov or 724-775-1700

Presenter Biography

Richard B. Gasaway worked as a first responder in three public safety organizations including serving 22 years as a fire chief. After completing his distinguished 30-year career, Dr. Gasaway founded Situational Awareness Matters!, a consulting and teaching organization dedicated to improving how individuals, teams and organizations develop situational awareness as a foundation for improving workplace and personal safety.

As a professional speaker and author, Dr. Gasaway has contributed to more than 400 books, book chapters and journal articles on topics related to leadership, safety, situational awareness and high consequence decision making. His best selling books, Situational Awareness Matters Volumes 1, 2 & 3, Situational Awareness for Emergency Response, and Fireground Command Decision Making, serve as essential guides for helping individuals and teams develop and maintain situational awareness while making high-stress, high-consequence decisions.

Dr. Gasaway has earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation – the highest honor awarded by the National Speakers Association. His high-energy, humor filled presentations are chocked full of valuable, actionable takeaways – as proven by his 2,500+ program and keynote address invitations throughout the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Australia.

Dr. Gasaway is a big proponent of “Paying it forward” and gives back by serving as the Chancellor for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) credentialing program and a peer evaluator for the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Credentialing program.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services center.

Beaver County Emergency Services is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. Emergency Services manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Services center is also the home of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services. Emergency Services works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to Beaver County.

Want to contribute?
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